

**Community Involvement Plan – Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant site,
also known as the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site
EPA Region 8
December 2016**

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promotes fair and meaningful public involvement so that all people enjoy equal access to the decision-making process and the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards regardless of race, color, national origin or income level.

To do this in the EPA Superfund Program, EPA staff works with the community and partners to conduct community outreach activities in areas affected by the Superfund designation and develops a community involvement plan that summarizes public concerns about the site and outlines how people can engage throughout the Superfund process. Community involvement activities at the Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant site, also known as the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site, are designed to:

- Inform and update the public about the site and the cleanup process.
- Engage the public to provide meaningful input into the Superfund process and site cleanup decisions.
- Sustain public engagement throughout the Superfund timeline.

This community involvement plan provides links and contact information to people and resources so that people can learn more about the CFAC site and identify the ways to be involved in the Superfund process so that people can engage in a manner that follows their interest and availability. The community involvement plan:

- Provides a synopsis of the site and summarizes community concerns and communication preferences (Section 1).
- Presents EPA's community engagement program for the site and what you can do to be involved (Section 2).
- Reviews the CFAC site's history and status (Section 3).
- Summarizes key community information and provides supplemental and contact information (Appendices).

Section 1: Site Synopsis, Community Concerns and Communication Preferences

The CFAC site is located at 2000 Aluminum Drive, two miles northeast of Columbia Falls in Flathead County, Montana. It covers approximately 960 acres north of the Flathead River and operated between 1955 and 2009. The CFAC site is located in EPA's Rocky Mountain and Plains Region (Region 8). EPA Region 8 serves Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 sovereign tribal nations.

During operation, CFAC created significant quantities of spent potliner material, a federally listed hazardous waste, as a byproduct of the aluminum smelting process. EPA's initial site evaluation indicated ground water and surface water had been contaminated with cyanide, fluoride, and various metals. Multiple potential sources of contamination are located at the site that may pose risks to human health or the environment.

To protect human health and the environment, EPA added the CFAC site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2016 making it eligible for additional study and cleanup resources under EPA's Superfund program.

Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the country's most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment. The program was established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

For the CFAC site, the EPA is the lead agency and works closely with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to oversee investigation and cleanup. CFAC with their contractor Roux Associates are currently conducting the remedial investigation of the site with EPA and MDEQ oversight. MDEQ is overseeing the demolition of the physical structures on the site.

The Superfund timeline can take many years. The following infographic shows the major steps in the Superfund process and where the CFAC site is in the process:

(The table below will be replaced with the Superfund Graphics Table)

Superfund Process Steps	Description	CFAC Site Timeline
Discovery	Potential site contamination is reported to EPA.	1984
Preliminary Assessment (PA)	EPA gathers available information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to human health and the environment and the need for further investigation.	1984
Site Investigation (SI)	Further analysis of air, water and soil at the site identifies hazardous substances present and whether they are being released to the environment and are a threat to human health.	1988 - 2014
National Priorities List (NPL) Site Listing Process	EPA evaluates site risks using the Hazard Ranking System. Sites scoring at or above an established level qualify for cleanup under Superfund and are proposed for listing on the NPL.	2015 (proposed) 2016 (final)
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	The RI collects data to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The FS identifies technologies to treat the contamination and evaluates the cost and performance of different cleanup approaches.	RI 2016 – 2020 FS

		2021 (est.)
Proposed Plan	The Proposed Plan summarizes RI/FS findings and identifies cleanup alternatives and a preferred approach to addressing site risks.	
Record of Decision (ROD)	The ROD documents and describes the site's selected remedy.	
Remedial Design	Work on technical specifications for cleanup remedies and technologies.	
Remedial Action	The construction or implementation of the cleanup.	
Construction Completion	Physical construction of all cleanup remedies is complete, all immediate threats have been addressed and all long-term threats are under control.	
Post-Construction Completion	Several activities following construction of response actions, including operation and maintenance and long-term response actions, institutional controls, five-year reviews and optimization of remedies.	
NPL Deletion	The final stage of the Superfund process. EPA may delete a site from the NPL if the Agency determines no further response is required to protect human health or the environment.	

Community involvement is essential throughout the Superfund process to ensure people can share information about the site and participate in the decision making process – from initial investigation to final cleanup and reuse of the site. Community involvement activities have been ongoing and will continue at the CFAC site in order to identify and respond to community concerns, engage people in the Superfund process, and develop the community involvement plan. These activities at the CFAC site have included:

- Researching community documents and considering public comments
- Meeting with local residents and community groups
- Working with elected officials and government partners at the local, state, and national level
- Cooperating with local news media
- Conducting community interviews

Community interviews are an important part of EPA's public engagement program. EPA will continue to conduct community interviews as an ongoing method to identify community concerns about the CFAC site and how to effectively engage community in the Superfund process.

In June 2016, EPA conducted an initial round of interviews with Columbia Falls residents, adjacent landowners, former CFAC workers, local business owners, elected officials, and other stakeholders. A copy of this initial questionnaire is located in Appendix D. All of the people interviewed had some familiarity with the site. Their experiences ranged from having minimal contact with the CFAC facility to working on site for decades.

Community Concerns

(Community Concerns graphic inserted here)

Information gathered during community interviews and other outreach activities have revealed several community concerns about the CFAC site. Some people noted that some of the concerns about site contamination are long standing, stretching back 20 to 30 years.

Human Health: Community members are concerned about the contamination on site and how it may affect people's health. People discussed concerns about potential health impacts but did not attribute any health-related issues or illnesses to the site or facility operations. People prefer to have

educational materials about site conditions to better understand any risks associated with living in the area and recommendations for minimizing potential contact with site contamination. People also observed that, in spite of “no trespassing” signage near the site, people continue to access the area to play ballgames and ride motorcycles and ATVs.

Cleanup: People want the CFAC site cleanup to be thorough, protective, lasting and timely. People are concerned about potential effects of the cleanup on surrounding areas, including the transportation of asbestos and other hazardous materials through the community. Interviewees also shared concerns about long-term monitoring of the cleanup and some people have expressed frustration that site investigation and sampling activities have taken several years.

Community Involvement: People want to be informed and engaged in the Superfund process and believe that the community, City and county officials, the CFAC Community Liaison Panel, residents near the CFAC site, and other stakeholders should receive timely updates. Many community members expressed concern about whether their input would be considered in the decision-making process. Community members also asked about the roles of various agencies and organizations.

The Economy: People are concerned about the potential economic impacts to the local economy that may result from listing the CFAC site on the NPL as well as from the site’s cleanup. Some interviewees noted that the site’s listing could stigmatize the area; other interviewees thought that the site’s cleanup could remove a major community concern and attract new businesses, residents and visitors. Several people shared concerns about the decline of industrial employers such as CFAC and expressed the need for sustainable economic development and quality jobs in the area

Water: Water quality and access to clean water are community priorities. People noted that water quality is related to both groundwater, for wells and municipal water supplies in Columbia Falls, and surface water, for downstream communities. People requested more information about which contaminants have been identified in area water supplies and whether those concentrations pose a risk to public health or the environment. People also asked about potential cleanup options for area water supplies, whether wells and water infrastructure systems will need to be upgraded or replaced, and whether site contamination could impair area water supplies over the long term.

Air: Clean air is important to the community. People want to know any historical impacts the CFAC facility’s operations had on local air quality and if cleanup activities, including the transportation of asbestos and other hazardous materials through the community, could create potential air quality issues.

Watershed: People are concerned about potential migration of site contamination could have broader watershed impacts. These impacts could affect wildlife, water supplies and the general health of area communities.

Wildlife: People are concerned about potential health impacts on fish and other wildlife, including winter habitat for elk near the CFAC site. Several people stated that they value the area’s environmental resources and see them as an important part of the community’s quality of life.

Future Land Use: People would like to know more about how/if the CFAC site could be reused in the future. Several people said that doing something productive with the land should be a priority.

Community members asked that EPA cover future land use considerations as part of site information materials and presentations.

Communication Preferences

The community expects EPA Region 8 to be transparent about its work and strive to include all community members and stakeholder in the Superfund process. During past outreach activities, EPA identified several methods the community prefers to be informed about the CFAC Superfund cleanup and how they would like to be involved.

Information Dissemination: People believed that EPA should use a range of methods to keep local community, government staff, agencies, and elected officials updated on all site related work. EPA should share information in written form and include graphics, pictures, and maps. Information should be straightforward and easy to understand in plain language. Recommended outreach methods include regular mailings, internet and social media, and emailed newsletters. People also recommended radio announcements, newspaper articles and television news stories to make sure information reaches as many people as possible. Many also requested that information be made available online and locally.

Public Meetings: People agreed that meeting in person is a good practice and EPA should distribute information through a variety of community events and locations.

Community Advisory Group (CAG): People are interested in exploring the possibility of establishing a CAG at the CFAC site. A CAG is an independent group made up of members of the community and is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the state regulatory agency, and other agencies, stakeholders, and people involved and interested in the Superfund cleanup.

In May 2015, the CFAC Community Liaison Panel was organized by CFAC to provide a forum for open discussions and exchange of ideas and opinions about the CFAC site. Community Liaison Panel meetings are open to the public and participants represent the community, elected officials, project consultants, state and federal agencies, and CFAC. The Community Liaison Panel is similar to a CAG with the exception that it is organized by CFAC and not an independent community group. To find more information about the Community Liaison Panel, visit:

<http://www.cfacproject.com/community-liaison-panel>

<http://cityofcolumbiafalls.org/cfac-liaison-panel>

Many people expressed concern that having two community organizations, the CFAC Community Liaison Panel and a Community Advisory Group, at the same time could be confusing, redundant, waste resources, and lead to information discrepancies and inconsistencies. Other people shared concerns that the Community Liaison Panel may not adequately represent the community and supported formation of a separate CAG. People recommended that if a CAG was formed, it should be as broadly representative of community perspectives as possible.

Notification and interpretation of sample results

Review of documents

Sharing information

Section 2: The Community Involvement Plan

EPA's community involvement plan for the CFAC site outlines how EPA will work with others to address community concerns with consideration for the communication methods that are preferred by the community. To promote fair and meaningful public involvement in the investigation, cleanup at the CFAC site, EPA will:

1. Promote community awareness and understanding of the CFAC site and Superfund process and the site by collecting and making information available and accessible to the public in a timely, non-technical manner.
2. Encourage and publicize opportunities for community engagement and public comment throughout the Superfund process.
3. Sustain long-term public engagement and maintain two-way communication with the community, partners and stakeholders to ensure people have equal access to the Superfund decision-making process and the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards regardless of race, color, national origin or income.

Community Engagement Tools and Activities

(Tools for Community Involvement graphic table inserted here)

To achieve these public engagement goals, EPA has identified and developed a variety of community involvement tools and activities:

Maintain Websites: EPA will continue to maintain a website specifically for the CFAC site.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/columbia-falls>.

The webpage will:

- Provide an overview and history of the site and EPA's involvement
- Post updated information about the Superfund cleanup process to the public. New and topical information will be featured on the front page of the website in the TOPICS IN FOCUS section
- Publish site reports and documents related to the site as they become available to the public. A link to the document section is located on the front page of the website under Site Reports and Documents
- Provide links to additional resources related to the site

EPA also has other webpages available for information about the Superfund program and Region 8:

- National Superfund program: <http://www.epa.gov/Superfund>
- EPA Region 8: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-8-mountains-and-plains>
- Superfund Community Involvement: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

Other organizations with websites that provide information about the CFAC site include:

- Montana DEQ: <http://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/CFAC/cfac>
- CFAC Community Liaison Panel: <http://www.cfacproject.com/community-liaison-panel>
- City of Columbia Falls: <http://cityofcolumbiafalls.org/cfac-liaison-panel>

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Learn more about the Superfund process and the CFAC by visiting these online resources. Link to these resources and share the information on social media. Provide feedback to the EPA about how the webpage can be improved.

Open Formal Public Comment Periods: Before key Superfund decisions are made about the site, EPA will announce and open a public comment and encourage people to submit information. EPA considers all public comments in the Superfund decision making process. The last formal public comment period was opened in March 2015 when EPA proposed to list the CFAC site to the NPL.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Be informed about the site and submit information to the EPA during public comment periods.

Distribute Periodic Updates: EPA will develop and distribute information about the site on a quarterly and as needed basis. These updates will:

- Provide regular updates about the Superfund process
- Notify the public about public meetings and availability sessions and open public comment periods
- Distribute information and educational materials about areas of community concern
- Provide links to publically available documents and other resources
- Reach a broad audience representative of the community and diverse stakeholders

EPA will maintain and continue to build the mailing list. If you would like to be on EPA's distribution for the CFAC site, please contact EPA's community involvement coordinator. Updates will be available at the information repository.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact EPA and add your name and preferred contact information to the contact list. Relay these updates and information to others and encourage them to sign up for updates if interested. Use the information to address misunderstanding and rumors about the site.

Develop Education Materials: To help address community concerns about the CFAC site, EPA will collect, prepare, and distribute to the community user-friendly documents to help people understand site conditions, technical reports, and legal concepts in plain language. EPA will use maps, photographs and other visual aids in these educational materials for to help people understand the CFAC site. Potential fact sheets include:

- CFAC Superfund Site Overview: provides a general description of the site, site agency responsibilities and the timeline for Superfund implementation.
- CFAC Contaminants of Concern: discusses the contaminants of concern at the site, their effects on human health, exposure pathways, and what the public can do to protect themselves.
- Introduction to Superfund: discusses community involvement requirements of the CERCLA law, the Superfund process and opportunities for community involvement.
- Reusing Superfund Sites: discusses EPA's approach promoting a productive future use of Superfund sites and provides examples.

Fact sheets, brochures, and other educational materials will be shared with all parties on the site distribution list, will be available at the site's information repositories, and will be shared during public events and with other organizations for broad distribution.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Read and help distribute educational materials about the site to others. Identify and share with EPA other existing educational resources and publications that may pertain to the CFAC site. Provide feedback and ideas to EPA about what kinds of information should be developed.

Maintain Information Repositories: EPA will continue to maintain a physical place for the collection of information and documents related to the CFAC site. Physical copies of documents are available for review or photocopying at both of the site's information repositories:

ImagineIF Library – Columbia Falls
130 6th Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(406) 892-5919

EPA Region 8 Headquarters
Superfund Records Center
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
(303) 312-7273 or (800) 227-8917 ext. 312-7273

Some of the materials available at the repositories include:

- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Progress Reports. Multiple reports are available starting November 2015
- Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan
- Phase I Site Characterization Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Site Reassessment for CFAC Aluminum Smelter Facility
- Support Document for the Revised National Priorities List Final Rule
- Fact sheets and brochures relevant to the CFAC site

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit an information repository and inform other people of their locations. Review technical documents and provide feedback and comments to EPA staff. Provide EPA with feedback about the repository and guidance on how to make these more accessible to the public.

Work with News Media: EPA Region 8 will provide updates and information with local newspapers and radio and television stations and encourage them to report on site-related issues in the local news. EPA will be available for interviews and will respond to media inquiries in a timely fashion.

EPA will publish public notices about meetings and other events in local newspapers and send the notices to other local news outlets. EPA Region 8 will include the following media outlets during outreach and information delivery.

<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>Television</i>	<i>Radio</i>	
Daily Inter Lake Flathead Beacon Hungry Horse News Missoulian	KCFW and KECI – NBC Montana KPAX – CBS Channel 8 KTMF – ABC Fox Montana	KGEX 600 AM KERR 750 AM KJJR 880 AM KOFI 1180 AM	KBBZ 98.5 FM KHNK 95.9 FM KDBR 106.3 FM KUKL 90.1 FM

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Read, watch, and listen to local news media reports about the site and relay that information to others. Look for notices for public meetings or other events in local newspapers.

Attend and Hold Meetings in the Community: EPA will attend meetings held by community groups, local government, and other organizations to deliver information about the site and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments. To identify appropriate opportunities and venues to deliver information about the CFAC site, EPA will coordinate with Flathead County and the City of Columbia Falls and community organizations such as CFAC Community Liaison Panel, Senior Citizens Center, the Columbia Falls Lions Club, the Rotary Club of Columbia Falls and the Kiwanis Club of Columbia Falls, the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

EPA will also hold separate public meetings when key Superfund milestones and decisions are reached. The EPA will also collect community feedback at these meetings. Notice for EPA hosted public meetings will be provided in advance and EPA will coordinate with the MDEQ, Flathead County, and the City of Columbia Falls for scheduling.

Different formats may be used for public meetings depending on the topic and situation. Depending on the needs, EPA may host public meetings or hearings, open houses, informal gatherings focused on particular topics of interest, and informal availability and listening sessions so that community members can share their thoughts with EPA staff.

Potential meeting locations include Columbia Falls City Hall, the Columbia Falls High School theater, the Columbia Falls Junior High School Cafetorium, North Valley Community Center, and the Coop/Columbia Falls Community Market.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Invite EPA to speak at a meeting or event. Attend EPA public meetings and other Superfund related public meetings to share your thoughts, concerns, and questions. Provide feedback to EPA about what other organizations or events would be valuable for EPA to attend.

Support a CAG: Should the community decide to form a community advisory group; the EPA has resources available for support. EPA will work with the community and coordinate with Flathead County and the City of Columbia Falls regarding potential CAG formation. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/community-advisory-groups>

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Learn more about a CAG and what they do. Meet with community members and discuss forming a CAG for the CFAC site and how to include broad community representation. Contact EPA for follow up and support.

Coordinate with Government Agencies and Elected Officials: EPA Region 8 will continue to coordinate with MDEQ, Flathead County Health Department, the City of Columbia Falls, the Montana Department of Health & Public Services, and other relevant agencies in the implementation of the CFAC site investigation and cleanup. EPA will also respond timely to inquiries from local, state, and national elected officials and meet with them regularly to ensure they are notified and informed of site updates and milestones.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Talk with local, state, and federal public service personnel and elected officials and share your comments, concerns, and questions.

Conduct Community Interviews: EPA will continue to arrange interviews with community members and representatives of stakeholder groups. These community interviews will help EPA:

- Identify new and ongoing communication strategies to better engage the community and interested parties
- Stay abreast of community concerns, issues, and perspectives as they evolve over the Superfund timeline
- Implement, monitor, evaluate, and revise this community involvement plan

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact EPA for an interview. Interviews usually last around 30 minutes and can lead to discussion afterward. Encourage others to participate in an interview.

Promote Education Through Social Media: EPA will deliver relevant messages about the CFAC site through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media applications:

EPA Region 8 Facebook

EPA Region 8 Twitter

EPA Region 8 News and Events webpage

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Share information about the site using your social media applications. Follow, relay information, and link to EPA social media posts related to the CFAC site.

Engage in Informal Discussions: EPA Region 8 will continue to maintain a presence in the community through informal visits and discussions with local residents and stakeholders. EPA staff will also be responsive to email, phone, in person, and written inquiries from the public.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit with and contact EPA staff for the CFAC site:

- Mike Cirian, Remedial Project Manager: (406) 293-6194; cirian.mike@epa.gov; 108 East 9th Street, Libby, MT 59923
- Robert Moler, Community Involvement Coordinator; (406) 457-5032; moler.robert@epa.gov; 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200, Helena, MT 59626.
- Appendix B lists additional contacts for the CFAC site:

Additional EPA Resources

EPA has other resources that people can access depending on the specific needs and conditions of the community:

Technical Assistance Programs: Technical assistance refers to the provision of services focused on increasing community understanding of the science, regulations and policy related to environmental issues and EPA actions. To support healthy communities and strengthen environmental protection, EPA works closely with communities to make sure they have the technical help they need.

Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) Tool: This is a process to identify additional support that a community may require in order to understand technical information and participate meaningfully in the Superfund decision-making process. A TANA helps EPA determine what technical assistance resources and information the Agency can provide to meet community needs.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-needs-assessments-tanas>

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program: This program provides services through a national EPA contract. Under the contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. TASC services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

Partners in Technical Assistance Program (PTAP): Colleges and universities provide voluntary technical assistance to communities through this program.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/partners-technical-assistance-program-ptap>

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program: TAGs are awarded to non-profit incorporated community groups. With TAG funding, community groups can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. The TAG recipient group is responsible for managing their grant funds and contributing a 20 percent award match. Most groups meet this requirement through in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours toward grant-related activities.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

Environmental Justice Resources: Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

EPA Region 8 programs collaborate closely to make sure underserved, low income and tribal communities facing disproportionate environmental risks have opportunities for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making. Region 8 also coordinates closely with EPA Headquarters and states to support initiatives that provide all people living near Superfund sites with technical assistance, training opportunities and other services. EPA has a variety of environmental justice resources available:

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program: The CPS program provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities.

<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program: EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>

Other Environmental Justice-Related Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

Section 3: Site Background and History

Site Description

A primary aluminum reduction facility was active on site from 1955 to 2009. The facility's permanent closure was announced in March 2015. The CFAC site covers about 960 acres. It is bounded by Cedar Creek Reservoir to the north, Teakettle Mountain to the east, Flathead River to the south and Cedar Creek to the west. The Flathead River is a fishery that includes the federally designated threatened bull trout and the federally sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. The site's total property area covers about 3,196 acres. The remainder of the site property is located south of Flathead River. This area was never used for industrial operations.

Buildings and industrial facilities on site included offices, warehouses, laboratories, mechanical shops, paste plant, coal tar pitch tanks, pump houses, a casting garage and a potline facility. The CFAC site also includes seven closed landfills, an active landfill, material loading and unloading areas, two closed leachate ponds, and several wastewater percolation ponds. A rectifier yard and switchyard owned by Bonneville Power Administration and a right-of-way for the Burlington Northern Railroad are also within the site's boundaries.

The CFAC site is located in a rural setting. The nearest residences are located adjacent to the site's southwest boundary, about 0.80 miles west of the historic footprint of site operations, in a neighborhood referred to as Aluminum City. The City of Columbia Falls anticipates that land uses in this area will not change rapidly in the foreseeable future.

Site History

Prior to the site's industrial development in the 1950s, land uses in the area were residential and agricultural. Anaconda Copper Mining Company purchased the property in 1951 and built the aluminum reduction facility. In 1985, CFAC bought the plant from Atlantic Richfield Company, which had acquired the facility from the plant's original owner in 1977. Glencore, a Switzerland-based company, acquired CFAC in 1999 and announced the facility's permanent closure in 2015.

Facility operations generated significant quantities of spent potliner material, a federally listed hazardous waste, as a byproduct of the aluminum smelting process. Contaminants detected at the Site include cyanide, fluoride and metals, including arsenic, chromium, lead and selenium. These contaminants are present in soils, surface ponds and groundwater at the CFAC site and pose a risk to nearby wells and the Flathead River.

Current Status

EPA and the State of Montana have determined that a comprehensive investigation of the CFAC site is necessary to inform effective cleanup actions to address these risks. EPA proposed adding the site to the NPL in March 2015, making it eligible for additional study and cleanup resources under the Superfund program. EPA finalized the CFAC site's listing on the NPL on September 9, 2016. EPA carefully evaluated all public comments received on the proposal to list the site to the NPL before making a final decision.

In November 2015, EPA signed a final agreement with CFAC to investigate site contamination. Under the terms of the agreement, CFAC is conducting a comprehensive investigation of soils, river sediments, and ground and surface water to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. All work is approved and overseen by EPA and Montana DEQ. The results of the investigation will determine cleanup needs and identify potential cleanup options. In 2015, Calbag purchased the physical aluminum plant infrastructure from CFAC. Work to dismantle the structures is ongoing.

Community Involvement

EPA Region 8, in coordination with MDEQ, has conducted community involvement activities through the process leading up to listing the CFAC to the NPL as a Superfund site. Community outreach activities have included establishing and maintaining a public website, requesting and considering public comments, holding public availability sessions and public meetings, attending local meetings of civic and community groups, distributing community updates and fact sheets publishing public notices

in the *Daily Inter Lake*, *Flathead Beacon* and *Hungry Horse News* newspapers, meeting with stakeholders and individuals, establishing and maintaining a local information repository at the Columbia Falls branch of the ImagineIF library, conducting community interviews, and reviewing available community documents. The information gathered through these activities helped to identify community concerns, communication preferences, and develop this community involvement plan. Some of the documents EPA reviewed include:

The Flathead County's Growth Policy: Last updated in 2012, the development of the policy included extensive public outreach and assessment of county-wide goals and priorities. Its findings highlight a community in transition, seeking to balance recognition, conservation, and use of historical and natural resources with economic expansion and sustained population growth. The policy does not specifically reference the CFAC site.

CFAC's April 2015 Community Assessment Report: This report identified a variety of community concerns and perspectives related to the CFAC site. Ann Green Communications conducted community interviews with community leaders, elected officials, neighbors, business leaders, emergency response officials, former employees, environmental advocates and other site stakeholders to ascertain an understanding of community perspectives and interests regarding CFAC and the salvage and remediation work done at the site. Focus areas included issues of importance to the community, local perceptions of industry and CFAC, and suggestions for CFAC's community outreach approach as part of its site responsibilities.

Appendix A: Community Profile

Columbia Falls and Flathead County are part of northwest Montana's Flathead Valley, which lies between Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Surrounded by more than two million acres of the Flathead National Forest and with the Flathead River flowing through the community, Columbia Falls is known as the gateway to Glacier National Park.

Land Use and Demographics

Flathead County encompasses 5,098 square miles. About 94 percent of the land area is national or state forest land, wilderness, farmland, or forest. Developed areas make up the remaining 6 percent of the county. In addition to Columbia Falls, other major population centers in the county include Kalispell and Whitefish.

As shown in the table below, the county and its population centers have experienced significant and sustained population growth since 2000. It is one of the fastest growing areas in Montana.

Flathead County		Columbia Falls		Kalispell		Whitefish	
Population		Population		Population		Population	
2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
74,471	90,928	3,873	4,688	15,184	19,927	5,629	6,357
<i>Population Change (2000-2010)</i>							
22%		21%		31%		13%	

<i>Current Population (2015 estimates)</i>			
96,155		22,052	7,073
<i>Notes:</i> The 2000 and 2010 data are from the U.S. Census decennial surveys. The 2015 population numbers are estimates from the U.S. Census.			

The City of Columbia Falls covers 923 acres – 1.3 square miles – and is bounded by the Flathead River to the east and south and by Burlington Northern railroad tracks to the north. The original town was laid out in the 1890s, incorporated in 1909, and developed as a trade- and transportation-related settlement.¹ The community is located about eight miles from Whitefish and 15 miles from Kalispell. State Highway 40 and U.S. Highway 2 connect the three cities.

Local and Tribal Government Overview

Flathead County (<https://flathead.mt.gov>)

A County Commission serves as the county’s executive and legislative branch. The Commission consists of three elected at-large commissioners. In addition, Flathead County has eight elected officials representing various branches of government. Elected offices include the Sheriff, Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, County Attorney, Clerk of Court, two Justice Court Justices of the Peace, and the Superintendent of Schools.

City of Columbia Falls (<http://cityofcolumbiafalls.org>)

The City has a commission-manager form of government. Elected officials include a Mayor and a six-member City Council. The City Manager is the day-to-day manager of city business and activities.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (<http://tribalnations.mt.gov/cskt>)

The Flathead Indian Reservation has land located in Flathead County. The Reservation is home to the Bitterroot Salish, upper Pend d'Oreille and Kootenai Tribes – also known as the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation. A total of 28,296 acres of reservation land are located in Flathead County – the entire reservation covers more than 1.2 million acres. Headquartered in Pablo, Montana, the Flathead Indian Reservation is governed by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council, which consists of 10 elected councilmen.

Blackfeet Nation (<http://blackfeetnation.com>)

The Blackfeet Indian Reservation is located in northwest Montana. The entire reservation spans about 1.5 million acres. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is the governing body of the Blackfeet Nation and is responsible for exercising all powers of government under the Blackfeet Constitution and Bylaws. The Council consists of nine members from four districts who are elected by tribal members to serve four-year terms.

Historically, the area’s economy has been based on industry and natural resources – logging, mining, agriculture and commodities production. Over time, the local economy has diversified, experiencing significant growth in the retail trade and service industries as well as construction and health care. Current economic drivers for Columbia Falls and Flathead County include its natural resources and related recreation and tourism opportunities.

Appendix B: Contacts

¹ Source: *Columbia Falls Master Plan*, 2000. Accessed at https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/documents/ColumbiaFallsCity-CountyMasterPlan.pdf.

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Appendix C: Fact Sheets

(will be inserted during layout)

Appendix D: Community Involvement Plan Questionnaire

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